

## UBIQUITOUS AND IRREPRESSIBLE.

The Irish are everywhere. Where there is a primary there is the Irishman. In a convention the first cry of "Mr. Speaker" will tear the E out of speaker in the first syllable and change it into a U in the second syllable. Where a policeman is wanted there he is, where a contract is to be let to pave a street, put in a foundation or open a mine he will be in evidence, where a riot is brewing or a strike is on he is at home; where a ship is to be held up into a storm or a forlorn hope is to be led, there he will volunteer. A Confederate Irishman after the war was showing a tourist the battlefield of Bull Run, and telling him how the Yankees ran from this point, how they broke at another point; how they could not "stand up to us onywhere," when the tourist said: "But did not the 69th New York do good work on that day?" The garrulous son of Erin was subdued for a moment, but he rallied and replied: "O, yes, indaad they did, they were over on the ridge beyant and it was murther to stand forinst 'em;" then drawing nearer the tourist and lowering his voice, he said: "The Irish byles did most of the fighten on both sides that day."

In California in the old days a new comer was most anxious to meet a celebrated Don Murphero famous in that land for his flocks and herds, his open hospitality and for his willingness to wager a band of cattle any time on a 600-yard mustang race. Finally he got up to the great man and was not long in discovering that he was originally a walf cast upon the shore of the Golden state, a walf named plain Murphy; that he improved his opportunities and won the hand and heart of the daughter of a real Don, married her and when the old Don finally passed from the sunshine of California to the sunshine beyond the stars, the walf not only inherited the great estate with its thousands of horses and cattle, but the title of the old man himself and wore it as be-

came a man to whom the Fates had been kind. We are reminded of these things by an article telling about the only Secretary of State which Pope Pius X keeps near him, Pius X, who is the spiritual sovereign over 400,000,000 of subjects. This Secretary's name is Rafael Merry del Val, his title is that of Cardinal, which he honestly earned through eminent services in many fields. His father was secretary at the Spanish embassy in London when and where this Secretary of State was born. But the great grandfather of this secretary's father was an Irishman who emigrated to Spain at the close of the seventeenth century. There is where the Merry part of his name came from. His mother was the daughter of the late Brodie McGhie Wilcox. The Brodie and the McGhie both have a French accent. Like Don Murphero of California he appropriated the good things that of right came to him and the chances are a thousand to one that the present secretary is a better Spaniard and man than as though his ancestors had been real Spanish. He has the ways and complexion of a Spaniard, but the outlines of his face are as Boudcault said of his mother: "Irish to the backbone." He is a great scholar, his life has been filled with good works. He is trusted as much for his unerring judgment as he is for his faith and works, and is a living example that when a Pope wants a secretary of state he can find an Irishman to take the contract.

The experts selected to investigate and report on the Baltimore fire, report that there is no such a thing as a fire-proof building, that the proper term is "fire retardent," and that the material which comes nearest being fire proof is the old fashioned brick: that a solid brick wall without openings will defy a conflagration. Steel and iron are good, but the trouble is that every elevator shaft and every line of stairway becomes a chimney for the flame to draw through when a fire comes; that

the sky-scraping buildings are good of themselves but a terror to outside buildings when a fire comes, because every elevator shaft becomes a roaring chimney of flame to be unloaded on surrounding structures. The lesson is make the buildings as secure as possible, have the stairways removed from around elevator shafts, and provide plenty of fire escapes.

## WHAT CAUSED THE HEAT?

The House of Representatives made a demand for information of the Postoffice Department to show at what times and under what circumstances during the past five years members of Congress have used their influence to secure increases in salaries of postmasters' additional clerks or in regard to leases of buildings, etc.

When the information was supplied a perfect storm of wrath swept over the lower house, and the Postmaster General was assailed with almost fish-woman epithets. We cannot understand what there was in the record to awaken such a storm. Different conditions exist in the various sections of this great country. A rigid rule might be exactly just and even generous in one place where its enforcement would work a mighty injustice in another. Or a little way-side postoffice might in a few weeks become the center of a great mining camp and the salariless postmaster be overwhelmed with his work. Or the prices of food and clothing might advance 25 per cent in a year, as they nearly have right here, and a clerk on his salary might not be able to live. What is more natural than an appeal to the Congressmen of the District and what more natural than for him to present the facts to the Postmaster General. When this is honestly done, what is there wrong in the record of it? Why should Congressmen become heated when the record is shown? We cannot understand the wrath of Congressmen over the showing. This is supposed to be a government of the people through

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